

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-3 are currently pending in the instant application. Claim 1 is independent. No amendments to the claims have been made by way of this response. However, Applicants have provided a complete listing of the claims hereinabove for the Examiner's convenience. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies of the interview conducted on October 26, 2004 with Applicants' representative. However, Applicants submit that no substantive issues were discussed during the interview of October 26, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the Examiner and his supervisor would contact the undersigned within the next two weeks to arrange a personal interview with Applicants' representative to discuss the merits of the Examiner's rejections based upon the Yamagishi (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003-0025805) reference. The Examiner also agreed not to issue a subsequent Office Action rejecting the claimed invention prior to discussing the present application with Applicants' representative. Accordingly, Applicants' representative awaits an indication from the Examiner of a date and time suitable for conducting the personal interview.

Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from Applicants at this time.

Drawings

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has approved the Formal Drawings submitted by Applicants on February 4, 2004. Accordingly, no further action is required from Applicants with respect to the drawings.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Yamagishi (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0025805 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

For example, with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including the feature(s) of: "a selection device which permits or prohibits the serial communication" with

the lens apparatus and the camera body. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has relied upon the alleged teachings of Yamagishi to show a selection device which permits or prohibits serial communication between a lens apparatus (element 10 in Yamagishi) and a camera body (element 100). This interpretation of the Yamagishi reference is respectfully traversed.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Yamagishi describes performing a communication between a camera body (element 100) and a computer (element 400). However, Yamagishi does not teach or suggest *any* communication between the camera body (element 100) and the lens apparatus (element 10). Therefore, Yamagishi cannot reasonably be interpreted to teach or suggest permitting or prohibiting any *serial communication* between the camera body and the lens. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In the claimed invention, a lens apparatus is capable of performing serial communication with a camera body having a selection device that permits or prohibits the serial communication. The claimed invention also provides unique, beneficial results not realized by the prior art of record. For example, in the case where there is trouble with establishing serial communication between the lens apparatus and the camera body, the serial communication

may also be prohibited and the selection device may be utilized to switch communication to a parallel communication.

In accordance with the above discussion of the patent(s) relied upon by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that these documents, either in combination together or standing alone, fail to teach or suggest the invention as is set forth by the claims of the instant application.

As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of- the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

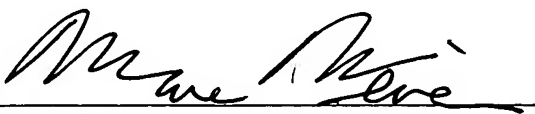
All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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